

Comet I.-II. 1862.

was such during these observations that it was not possible to obtain a fair view of the arrangement in the plane of its motion, or to form a satisfactory idea how far these phenomena may have arisen from any external resistance.

Hardwick Parsonage, December 24th, 1861.

Comet I., 1862.

The Comet appears to have been first observed by Mr. Schmidt, at Athens, about half-past ten on the evening of July 2, near the stars β , ϵ , σ , *Cassiopeiae*. It was seen about midnight by M. Tempel, at Marseilles, and by Mr. Bond, at Harvard College, on the evening of July 3d (see *Ast. Nach.* Nos. 1369, 1370, and 1374). Elements have been computed by Dr. Seeling, Mr. Hall, Mr. H. P. Tuttle, and Dr. Weiss; those of Dr. Weiss, computed from the Athens and Marseilles Observations of July 2, 3, 5, are as follows:—

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \text{June } 22^{\text{nd}} 5430 \text{ G.M.T.} \\ \Omega &= 324^{\circ} 30' 4'' \} \text{ Mean Eq.} \\ \Pi &= 298^{\circ} 35' 2'' \} 1862^{\circ} 0. \\ &= 8^{\circ} 14' 2'' \\ \log q &= 9.99242. \end{aligned}$$

Motion retrograde.

Comet II., 1862.

The Comet was discovered by MM. Pacinotho and Tous-saint, at Florence, on the 22d July (*Ast. Nach.* No. 1374). The elements, as calculated by Dr. Hornstein, from observations of July 24, 27, and August 1, are as follows:—

$$\begin{aligned} T &= 1862, \text{Aug. } 23^{\text{rd}} 1395, \text{ Berlin M.T.} \\ \Omega &= 137^{\circ} 4' 32'' 8'' \} \text{ Mean Eq.} \\ \Pi &= 344^{\circ} 16' 13.6'' \} 1862^{\circ} 0. \\ &= 66^{\circ} 3' 4.1'' \\ \log q &= 9.9847732. \end{aligned}$$

Motion retrograde.

Communications in reference to this Comet have been received from C. B. Chalmers, Esq., and Lieutenant Chimmo. Mr. Chalmers (Shanty Bay, County of Simcoe, Canada West), with his 5-foot equatorially-mounted telescope by G. Dollond, saw the Comet, August 11, about 10 P.M., in the constellation *Camelopardus*; approximate Declination $+80^{\circ} 51'$, Comet moving north at the rate of about $50'$ in twenty-four hours; there was no tail, but a rather extensive coma; the nucleus bore a faint illumination of the wires.

Lieut. Chimmo (Canna Island, Hebrides, lat 57° N., long. $6^{\circ} 30'$ W.) observed the Comet on the night of Sept. 1, about $9^{\text{h}} 51^{\text{m}}$ G.M.T. He observed the distances of the Comet from

Ursa Major α	67	5	30
Ditto η	39	58	30
Arcturus	73	39	30
α Lyrae	41	22	30

from which the position is laid down on a drawing which accompanied his letter. The altitude was $25^{\circ} 48' 30''$.

The Moon had just set, and the Comet's position was made under the disadvantage of a bright Aurora, which was coruscating towards the zenith, from an arch of about 14° elevation, from N.N.W. to N.N.E. (mag.)

The tail of the Comet was inclined to the E.S.E. (mag.), and measured (with unassisted vision) half a degree nearly, or about equal to fifty millions of miles.

The nucleus was well defined, and equal to a star of the third or fourth magnitude, surrounded by considerable nebulosity of an irregular oval, perhaps paraboloidal. The jet apparently waved to and fro: this is however doubtful, and it may be an illusion, caused probably by the shooting coruscations of the Aurora.

The most attractive feature of the Comet was the well-defined limb of the south or underneath portion of the tail.

The instruments used were a common 3-foot telescope of 1.6 field, and a sextant, being all that the observer had; but there was the assistance of a pure and transparent atmosphere.

A list, containing all the Errata discovered in the above Tables at the *Nautical Almanac* Office, and otherwise known at the Royal Observatory up to the date of March 10, 1862, has lately been issued in the form of a *Nautical Almanac*